



***San Diego County
Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission***

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January 11, 2007

COMMISSIONERS	DISTRICT	ATTENDANCE
Jack Bransford	1	Present
Paul Kelpin	1	Present
Florence Sloane, Vice-Chair	2	Present
Bruce Campbell, Secretary	2	Present
Rob Wilder	3	Present
Teresa Barth,	3	Absent
D'erdra Smothers, Ph.D	4	Present
Jim Dodd, Chair	4	Present
Jim Conrad	5	Absent
Vacant	5	Present

A. Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

B. Introductions:

Bob Atkins, County of San Diego, Agriculture, Weights and Measures
Erik Fleet, California Department of Fish and Game
Mike Ference, California Department of Fish and Game
Scott Bringman, California Department of Fish and Game
Bob Fusco, Hunter Safety Education Classes
Shara Fisler, Aquatic Adventures
Elizabeth Castillo, San Diego Natural History Museum
Paul Curtis, AquaSolvers, Inc.
Dr. Jeff Lincer, Director, Wildlife Research Institute
Dawn Nielsen, Agriculture, Weights and Measures

C. Minutes for December 14, 2006 were amended as follows:

Changes: Commissioner Sloane said that Old Business Item 3 should read:

Handling of fines/forfeiture monies for Fish & Game violations (Sloane)

SDCWF made a public records request to the state Controller's office for an accounting of monies. Information provided was limited. Commissioner Sloane plans to follow up with County sources for an accounting and to promote the value of FWAC and the use of fines/forfeiture monies.

Motion made to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion made by: Bruce Campbell Seconded by: D'erdra Smothers

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

D. Public Comment on any subject matter within Commission jurisdiction, but not on the agenda. (No discussion or action may be taken by the Commission.)

No Public Comment

E. Chairman's Report –

No Chairman's Report

F. Administrative Items--The Commission will discuss, and may take action on, administrative items related to the Commission.

Old:

1. San Diego Freshwater Fish Project (Campbell)

Commissioner Campbell gave an update of the San Diego Freshwater Fish program. He discussed critical projects of having a bio-assessment conducted on San Mateo Creek, and constructing a rescue hatchery. He discussed current rescue hatchery options and available equipment at Hubbs-SeaWorld and the Chula Vista Nature Center. Future options included perhaps space at Wildlife Research Institute, Inc. in Ramona. Paul Curtis has agreed to help write a grant for a bio-assessment on San Mateo Creek.

Mr. Paul Curtis reported on the importance of a hatchery program. He said with current steelhead fish programs, there is no chance for the native species to be restored on their own. Currently, the fish that is spawned and stocked is strain of rainbow trout. It has not been successful in rehabilitating fish populations because the fish needs to be able to travel through streams and rivers needs to break through sandbars to the ocean. Rainbow trout start reproducing at 5 years and reproductive lifespan is 5 years long. If during this time, there is not an adequate spawning area, in short period, the trout can become extinct.

Mr. Curtis also indicated that in 2003, two populations of fish unique to San Diego were lost due to the fires. In Green Valley, the fire was so hot, that it literally boiled the stream away. Additionally, a few weeks later, as a result of rain and runoff of carbon, oxygen levels in the streams plummeted to zero and stayed that way for many months. Only a few trout are coming back in the Cedar Fire area, and while recent trout catches have been reported from Loveland Reservoir, they have the problem in that they are unable to get over the [Green Valley] falls and back to their spawning area. Cedar Creek was extirpated and the Rainbow Trout in Pauma Creek cannot run from Oceanside to Palomar Mountain. Current goals are to breed the local Rainbow Trout and move them into the

local watersheds. There is virtually no risk of introgression by stocked rainbow trout that escape during [reservoir] spill events. Local trout breed in February and March. The rainbow trout that is currently stocked is a Shasta variety that breeds in June. Fish hatcheries are essential as they serve as genetic storage area.

2. Monthly Meeting with CDFG (Sloane)

Commissioner Sloane reported that the last meeting with Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, San Diego County Wildlife Federation and Department of Fish and Game, was held on December 18, 2006.

Topics discussed were:

- Status of Land Management Plans (LMP) for Boden Canyon ER, San Felipe Valley WA, Rancho Jamul ER, and Hollenbeck Canyon WA.
- New Director of Weights and Measures, which supports the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Mutual management plans for BLM, DFG and other agencies that are acquiring contiguous pieces of land in San Diego County, including public access
- DFG dove banding project
- Ongoing and future work projects at HCWA
- Cooperation of DFG with Cuyamaca College for possible development of curriculum
- Distribution of future meeting notes

Commissioner Sloane said these meetings are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16th at 10:00am.

Commissioner Bransford talked about the success of the meetings.

3. Handling of fines/forfeiture monies for Fish & Game violations (Sloane)

Commissioner Sloane reported that she continues to work on this issue.

4. Financial Report (Dodd)

Agricultural Commissioner Atkins reported that the \$15,000 deposited into the Fish and Fund in July 2006 resulted from a case of the People versus Leslie Farm. A synopsis was given to the Commissioners.

5. Grant Applications (Dodd)

Commissioner Dodd asked for any additional information or presentations.

06/07-04 Law Enforcement Equipment

Erik Fleet and Mike Ference representing California Department of Fish and Game gave a presentation on the need for this equipment. Commissioners gave suggestions of other funding sources for both money and equipment. Dr. Lincer also offered an additional source of equipment.

06/07-05 Audio Visual Equipment for Hunter Education Classes

No questions from Commissioners or additional presentation from Mr. Fusco.

06/07-06 Wetland Avengers: Habitat and Restoration and Education

Commissioner Smothers asked if the binoculars were reused. Ms. Fisler indicated they were. They need additional binoculars since a greater number of students are enrolled in the program. Commissioner Sloane asked about priorities, if the item marked #1 was the highest priority, etc. Ms. Fisler indicated that was correct.

06/07-07 Oceanside Senior Anglers 2007 Kids Sponsored Fishing Trips

No additional questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Campbell said that he would contact the Presidents of several local angling clubs and ask them to make up the shortfall.

06/07-08 San Diego County Mammal Atlas

No additional questions from Commissioners.

The amount of funds available was \$26,822.19. Grant requests totaled \$32,416.85. Commissioners discussed the amount available was less than the amount requested. They discussed options for grant requestors who would not receive full amounts requested. Commissioners asked grant requestors who were present, where cuts could be taken without compromising programs.

The grants funds were allocated as follows:

FY	Id	Project Name	Funds Requested	Funds Granted	Organization	Contact	Description
2006-07	4	Enhanced Equipment for Law Enforcement	\$5,799.93	\$5,799.93	CDFG	Warden Scott M Bringman	Optical equipment to curb poaching
2006-07	5	Audio Visual Equipment for Hunter Safety Education Classes	\$3,116.92	\$2,000		Robert Fusco	Portable audio/visual equipment to use in hunter safety classes throughout East County
2006-07	6	Wetland Avengers: Habitat Restoration and Education	\$7,500.00	\$6,500	Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation	Shara Fisler	Experiential classroom and field based environmental program for fourth graders in San Diego county
2006-07	7	Oceanside Senior Anglers 2007 Kids Sponsored Fishing Trips	\$6,000.00	\$3,000	Oceanside Senior Anglers	Fred Kaczmarek	Educational fishing trips for 7-15 year old kids during summer
2006-07	8	San Diego County Mammal Atlas	\$10,000.00	\$8,000	San Diego Natural History Museum	Scott Tremor	Collaborative effort to create reference on mammals in San Diego County request support for publication
Total			\$32,416.85	\$25,299.93			

The motion made to: Approve the grant amounts of:

2006/07-04 for \$5,799.93

2006/07-05 for \$2,000

2006/07-06 for \$6,500

2006/07-07 for \$3,000

2006/07-08 for \$8,000

Motion made by: Commissioner Bransford Seconded by: Commissioner Wilder

Call for Vote: Unanimous Approval

6. Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures Update (Atkins)
Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins gave presentation on the results of his inquiries into several concerns voiced by the FWAC. These centered on mileage, number of meetings per year. Commissioner Atkins was asked about the County's legislative cycle. Mr. Atkins reported that intents are required in the fall. All bills have to be brought to the legislature around January 25th. Bills can later become available as a spot bill. Full analysis including pros and cons is required to the County. Sarah Aghassi handles the proposed legislation for the County. This goes to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Once this is approved, lobbyists can speak to the bill. Mr. Atkins said if the group is interested in proposing legislation, they can work with Ms. Aghassi on the analysis and ask the Board of Supervisors to take a position. Also the County has a grants function and the FWAC could seek grants on behalf of the County.
7. Identification of FWAC Goals, Objectives and Projects for 2007 (Conrad)
Deferred until next meeting.
8. Hobbs Ranch owned & managed by Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) or San Diego County Parks & Rec. (Conrad/Bransford)

Commissioner Bransford gave background on the Hobbs Ranch. Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) has asked the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission to support WRI's bid to manage Hobbs Ranch. WRI is a recognized land trust organization. Commissioner Campbell visited Hobbs Ranch along with WRI. The owner offered this land as mitigation for another project. The County has opposed WRI because the endowment was insufficient. Commissioner Campbell spoke with Trish Boaz of Parks and Recreation. Commissioners want to ensure that the County would keep the land in trust.

Commissioner Atkins said he had met with Vince Nicoletti of the County's Land Use and Environment Group. He is recommending having Department of Planning and Land Use and/or Parks and Recreation to attend an upcoming FWAC meeting to give an overview.

Dr. Jeff Lincer, Director of Wildlife Research Institute, Inc. (WRI) gave an overview as follows. He said WRI, a nonprofit organization, has three main purposes: research, public education, and land conservation and management. Currently, 9-12 birds of prey depend on the Ramona Grasslands. Finding property and ensuring the property is managed in perpetuity, provides an endowment. The interest pays for management and monitoring of the property. Previously, a group of developers through Environmental Land Solutions approached the county regarding Hobbs Ranch. Initially the County indicated they were not interested in maintaining the property because the interest was not sufficient to manage the property. Then, the developers approached WRI. WRI met with the County and Environmental Land Solutions. WRI produced a Resource Management Plan. The County said they were not sure WRI will be in business forever. Another entity, the Environmental Trust went out of business after three years. It was the first time a private organization went out of business and left 30-40 pieces of land

without a future. WRI is going into 10th year, and their by-laws require a mechanism to transfer assets should they go out of business and WRI has provided this information to the County.

After many months, WRI met with the County again, and at that time, the County indicated their interest in this property. Dr. Lincer stated that WRI has great interest in seeing grassland maintained as only a small percentage of the California grasslands are left. In the early 1990's, WRI member David Bittner pulled together all the nonprofit agencies to understand the value of Ramona grasslands.

Questions were raised as to whether the County currently maintained any ecological preserves. Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins said he had been in contact with the County's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer's staff regarding this issue and would invite them to attend a future FWAC meeting. It was agreed to have the County come and discuss their experience in this area.

9. Day at the Docks (Smothers)

Commissioner Smothers brought information regarding a booth at Day at the Docks event. She promoted this event as a good public relations program, networking with a variety of fishing organization. There is a \$150 entry fee before February 15th and \$160 after that date. Dawn Nielsen indicated it might be difficult to meet the February 15th submission date because approved minutes are required to accompany requests to the Auditor and Controller. The minutes of the meeting not be approved until February 8th, and it would be difficult to have a check issued in that short amount of time.

The motion made to: Spend \$160 for a booth at the Day at the Docks event.

Motion made by: Commissioner Campbell Seconded by: Commissioner Wilder

Call for Vote: Unanimous Approval

10. FWAC Website (Bransford)

Deferred until next meeting.

11. Biannual Report to Board of Supervisors (Dodd)

Smothers recommended the following changes on Attachment A. Grant requests:

05-add equipment to use in hunter safety classes.

06-attending 4th graders

08-publishing reference book. Spell out SD and County.

12. Meeting Schedule for 2007 (Bransford)

It was agreed to keep meeting schedule for 2007.

New:

No new Business

G. Commissioner's Corner –

Florence Sloane -

D'erdra Smothers – County Board of Supervisors State of the County is February 6th at

USC Shiley theatre, 6 p.m.

Jack Bransford -

Paul Kelpin –

Rob Wilder –

Jim Dodd –

Bruce Campbell -

H. Adjournment Time: 9:04

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

None at this time.